

Remarks

By way of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 10, and 12-16 are pending. Claims 6, 8, 9, and 11 have been cancelled, and claims 2-4, 7, 10, and 14-16 have been amended. These claim amendments and cancellations are being made solely for purposes of filing this continuing application. Applicants submit that these claims are supported by the application as filed. Additionally, the specification is being amended to acknowledge priority of this continuing application to U.S.S.N. 10/349,448, which is a continuing application of U.S.S.N. 09/973,753, now U.S. Patent No. 6,548,538.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the subject matter of the pending claims is patentable and that the instant application should accordingly be allowed. If the Examiner believes that a conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (203) 812-6450.

Respectfully submitted,

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